

16. (NEW) A humanized antibody specific for HBV surface antigen pre-S1, containing a humanized heavy chain variable region which comprises an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 20.

17. (NEW) A humanized antibody specific for HBV surface antigen pre-S1, containing a humanized heavy chain variable region which comprises an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 21.

18. (NEW) The humanized antibody of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence of the humanized heavy chain variable region is modified from SEQ ID NO: 21 by at least one amino acid substitution selected from the group comprising:

Lys¹² → Val¹², Thr²⁸ → Ala²⁸, Thr³⁰ → Ser³⁰,
Met⁴⁸ → Ile⁴⁸, Arg⁶⁷ → Lys⁶⁷, Val⁶⁸ → Ala⁶⁸,
Met⁷⁰ → Leu⁷⁰, Val⁷⁹ → Ala⁷⁹, and Tyr⁹⁵ → Phe⁹⁵.

19. (NEW) A humanized antibody specific for HBV surface antigen pre-S1, containing a humanized light chain variable region which comprises an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 23.

20. (NEW) A gene encoding a humanized heavy chain which comprises a humanized heavy chain variable region having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: the amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 20; the amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 21; and the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 which is modified by at least one amino acid substitution

selected from the group comprising: Lys¹² → Val¹², Thr²⁸ → Ala²⁸, Thr³⁰ → Ser³⁰, Met⁴⁸ → Ile⁴⁸, Arg⁶⁷ → Lys⁶⁷, Val⁶⁸ → Ala⁶⁸, Met⁷⁰ → Leu⁷⁰, Val⁷⁹ → Ala⁷⁹, and Tyr⁹⁵ → Phe⁹⁵.

21. (NEW) The gene of claim 20, wherein the humanized heavy chain variable region comprises an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 20.

22. (NEW) The gene of claim 20, wherein the humanized heavy chain variable region comprises an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 21.

23. (NEW) A gene encoding a humanized light chain which contains a humanized light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 23.

24. (NEW) An expression vector containing the gene of claim 20.

25. (NEW) The expression vector of claim 24, which is designated pCMV-HKR127HC (Accession Number: KCTC 0531BP).

26. (NEW) The expression vector of claim 24, which is designated pCMV-HKR127(III)HC (Accession Number: KCTC 0691BP).

27. (NEW) An expression vector containing the gene of claim 23.

28. (NEW) The expression vector of claim 27, which is designated pKC-dhfr-HKR127 (Accession Number: KCTC 0529BP).

29. (NEW) A pharmaceutical composition containing a humanized antibody specific for HBV surface antigen pre-S1, wherein the humanized antibody comprises:

- A2
cont'd
- (a) a humanized heavy chain variable region which comprises an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 20,
 - (b) a humanized heavy chain variable region which comprises an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 21;
 - (c) a humanized heavy chain variable region which comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 which is modified by at least one amino acid substitution selected from the group comprising: Lys¹² → Val¹², Thr²⁸ → Ala²⁸, Thr³⁰ → Ser³⁰, Met⁴⁸ → Ile⁴⁸, Arg⁶⁷ → Lys⁶⁷, Val⁶⁸ → Ala⁶⁸, Met⁷⁰ → Leu⁷⁰, Val⁷⁹ → Ala⁷⁹, and Tyr⁹⁵ → Phe⁹⁵, or
 - (d) a humanized light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence described by SEQ ID NO: 23

30. (NEW) A method of protecting against HBV infection or treating chronic hepatitis B, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 29.

REMARKS

Prior to a first Office Action in this application, Applicants request that original claims 1-15 be canceled without prejudice, and that new claims 16-30 be added. These new claims do not involve